

Application No. 09/401,740

REMARKS

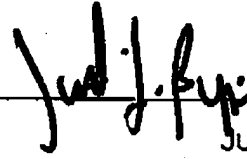
Applicant has amended the claims as indicated. More specifically, Applicant has amended claim 1 to remove therefrom "styrene polymer". Claims 2 to 17 depend from claim 1. Applicant has amended claim 18 to place it in independent form. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18. Applicant has cancelled claims 21 and 22. Applicant has added new claim 23, which recites "a hardening component which comprises poly (α -methyl styrene), poly (vinyl toluene-co- α -methyl styrene), poly (methyl styrene-co-indene) hydrogenated, poly (styrene-co-allyl alcohol), or a mixture thereof"; these materials were recited in previous claim 8, which the Board of Appeals indicated to be allowable over the cited art. New claims 24 to 30 depend from new claim 23. Applicant has also added new independent claims 31 to 37, which correspond to previous dependent claims 5 to 7, 10, 11, 15, and 17; these previous dependent claims were indicated by the Board of Appeals to be allowable over the cited art.

Applicant believes that the foregoing amendments place the claims in condition for allowance, and accordingly respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds for rejection.

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In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, she is hereby authorized to call Applicant(s) attorney, Judith L. Byorick, at Telephone Number (585) 423-4564, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,



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JLB/cw
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